

Castle Lodge, 6657, History

Pre- 1948, the year of Consecration

Prior to 1948, St. Andrews Lodge No.1046 and Waverley Lodge No.4723 were the only Craft Lodges in the Province of Surrey meeting in Farnham. In 1947 it had been twenty-one years since Waverley Lodge was formed, and there was a Masonic feeling abroad that Farnham was in need of a new lodge. Plainly advancement through the offices of the two existing lodges was slow, and there must have been keen competition for the duties available to Past Masters. Indeed, in our Mother Lodge of St. Andrews, twenty years was regarded as the norm from Initiation to Installation at that time.

Accordingly, a meeting of interested local Masons took place at the Railway Hotel, Farnham on October 17th. 1947, and the wheels put in motion to form a new lodge. The Railway Hotel is now known as the Blue Boy, on Station Hill.

Sponsorship was obtained from St. Andrews Lodge No. 1046 as the senior local Craft lodge. St. Andrews had been in existence since 1864, and has in time spawned other local Craft lodges. It has also given its name to the St. Andrews Holy Royal Arch Chapter No. 1046. The name has again been given to the Farnham Lodges of Mark Master Masons and Royal Ark Mariners, the latter two going under the number of 806.

The usual iterations and interviews took place with the Surrey Provincial Office and the proposed Castle Lodge ('the name chosen is a very good one' - Asst. Prov. GM) was taking shape.

Absit Invidia - The Motto

It is not clear who suggested the Lodge motto. A bland entry in the Committee minutes of 16th. January 1948 states:-

“The following motto for the Lodge was suggested: **Absit Invidia** - Let there be no ill will.”

No other comment is included, but it was duly accepted unanimously, and has remained ever since. It must be considered one of the best around as surely it epitomises all of the spirit of Freemasonry in just two words, albeit incomprehensible to most non-Latin speakers.

There is no record of who designed the Lodge logo, but it seems to crop up in similarly named lodges around the country. Therefore it may have been 'got off the shelf'.

The Founders

These worthies were the motivating force behind the formation of Castle Lodge. Due to their perceived need to form a new Farnham Lodge they got down to work in 1947 in a most commendable manner. Most of their names crop up for many years in the Lodge minutes, serving in vital and distinguished offices in its affairs.

To the following Founders we owe Castle Lodge's existence:

W.Bro. AP Gibbons PAGDC, LGR
W.Bro. WE Hamilton-Jones LGR
W.Bro. CH Brock, Lt. Col. OBE, V.D.P.Distr.GD (Madras)
W.Bro. FWH Wittridge LGR
W.Bro. EA Draper
W.Bro. PW Elsmore
W.Bro. HWI Williams
W.Bro. S Hare
Bro. WA Gosling
Bro. ER Gudge
Bro. FB Taylor
Bro. FE Lloyd
Bro. HA Scott
Bro. FGC Frost
Bro. DW Paget
Bro. VJ Purser

The work of forming the new lodge was not without considerable effort or expenditure. For instance, the Founders fee was set at £12.12. 00 (twelve guineas, or £12.60p nowadays), a considerable sum in 1947.

A Daughter of St. Andrews Lodge No.1046

Any new Farnham Lodge would naturally look to St. Andrews Lodge No. 1046 for sponsorship. As noted above, St. Andrews Lodge had been consecrated in 1864 and naturally was the most senior of the two existing local Craft lodges.

As can be seen from the Petition (copy of the original included) a lot of the Castle Lodge Founders were members of that Lodge, and it can be supposed that support was willingly offered. Such was the goodwill that an offer was made by St. Andrews Lodge to use its' furniture free of charge. This was subject to sharing the expense of repairs, until Castle Lodge became equipped in its own right.

Petition to Form a New Lodge

The Petition was duly submitted and on the 4th. March 1948, the letter was written that the M.W The Grand Master 'had been pleased to accede to the petition for the formation of Castle Lodge, to which the number 6657 has been allocated.'

Things were now truly running.

The Warrant

For a total of twelve guineas (£12.60p), ten to UGLE and two to the Province of Surrey, the Warrant of the Lodge was produced with the following names:

WM	W.Bro. WE Hamilton-Jones LGR
SW	W.Bro. DW Paget
JW	Bro. FGC Frost
IPM	W.Bro. AP Gibbons PAGDC, LGR
Sec.	W.Bro. FWH Wittridge LGR
SD	Bro. VJ Purser
JD	Bro. FE Lloyd

We are informed at our Initiation that the Warrant 'is free for our to inspection on this or any other night'. How many actually do so? It makes fascinating reading, being couched in the language and grammar of the 18th. Century. A reduced size copy is included with this history. Granted it may need a magnifying glass to decipher, but a perusal of the actual document is commended to any member.

Consecration

This was held at the Masonic Hall, Surbiton on Friday 4th. June, 1948. The Consecration was carried out by the R.W. Bro. Lieut. Col. HA Mann OBE MC (PGM) in the presence of one hundred and seven members and visitors.

The PGM seems to have been particularly favourably disposed towards the Lodge. He visited it at Farnham in an official capacity several times over the next few years. It should be recorded however that he was a very active 'hands on' PGM, consecrating and visiting lodges throughout the Province on a continual basis.

Of course there is no summons for the Consecration, or the immediately following first meeting of the Lodge. However, a copy of the summons for the first regular Meeting to held in Farnham for 3rd. September 1948 is included in this work.

There is a record that, in gratitude for their work, the Consecrating Officers 'be presented with a gift of a pipe or some such item'. Such a present may not so acceptable in these more health conscious days, but it was a nice gesture anyway.

Emulation Ritual

Curiously the decision of which Ritual Working to employ was not taken until five weeks after the Consecration.

There may have been a rare bit of dissension on this matter. Presumably as several of the Founders were London Masons they would have preferred their own Mother Lodge workings - whatever they were! The minutes of the Committee meeting of July 9th. 1948 record that discussion took place and by a majority vote it was agreed that Emulation Working should be

adopted. No other Workings are mentioned, but this may be due to the commendable practice of keeping Minutes to the bare bones in those days.

It seemed a bit late in the day to choose the Working to be used, but no withdrawals of support are recorded, so we must assume that happiness reigned as ever. Strict Emulation has been the practice ever since, which has occasionally meant the Lodge 'Calling Off/On' for lectures or pieces of ritual not strictly proper to a particular Ceremony.

There was a minor change to the Ritual in 1965 when there was an alteration to the permissive words of the Obligation. The change was approved in Lodge by twenty-nine votes in favour, to five against. The Obligations of the various degrees were again amended at the behest of the UGLE from the September 1986 meeting, when the traditional penalties were removed and alluded to elsewhere in the Ceremonies. As the Ritual is more of a living thing than we usually think, doubtless there will be changes in the future. Castle Lodge does have a tradition of obedience to Grand Lodge's reasonable wishes, and would probably hope to maintain that record..

The Early Years

The early fees were set at:-

Initiates' fee	£15-15-00d (£15.75p) plus subscription of £4-4-00d (£4.20p).
Subscription*	£ 4-4-00d to include dining (less Wine!)
Joining fee	£ 7-7-00d (£7.35p) plus subscription of £4-4-00d

* the actual cost of the meal was 8/-6 (eight shillings and sixpence for those who cannot remember pre-decimalisation, and which now equals 42.5p).

As a 'special offer' the first five joining members were to be admitted at the reduced fee of five guineas (£5.25p), plus subscription. As a further inducement the first Initiate was to be a guest of the Lodge for the first year.

Compared with our present fees and given the high rate of inflation over the last fifty years our Treasurers seem to have contained the fees very well.

Things were Masonically busy in those days as is indicated by the programme of events:-

1950	Jan	1 Passing and 2 Initiations
	Mar	1 Raising and 2 Passings
	May	2 Raisings
	Sept	Installation
	Nov	2 Initiations
1951	Jan	2 Passings and 2 Initiations
	Mar	2 Raisings and 2 Passings

May 2 Raisings

Indeed this level of commendable activity continued for some time, and in 1953 it was agreed 'that due to the backlog of Candidates no more proposals would be accepted until the backlog was cleared'. Even so, occasional Emergency Meetings were held in order to cope with the workload. As the quality of Candidates seemed very high this may be a problem many lodges would actually welcome nowadays. Initiates have tended to be thin on the ground of late.

The first Regular meetings were held at The Institute, South Street, Farnham presently known (1997) as the Central Club, and fairly adjacent to the Bush Hotel. These were held on the first Fridays of September, November, January March and May.

It is noticeable from the Minutes that Castle Lodge Meetings appeared to be robust affairs in those days. The meetings of Grand Lodge during the 1700's seemed a bit reminiscent of the rowdy House of Commons proceedings nowadays. Likewise the Lodge discussions appear to be best described as frank and open, leading to varying degrees of dissension in the voting results. Nowadays we hope things go 'in accord', with points clarified before the harmony of the Lodge can be disturbed by divided voting - even granted that a healthy debate is good for everyone.

The Installation meeting was initially held in September, but was often poorly attended, principally because of holidays still being taken in the first week of that month. Therefore, the annual Installation was moved to the November meeting from 1952. Originally it was mooted for it to be moved to a new June meeting date, but fortunately that was not possible for some reason not specified at that time. It would now cause real problems as the Masonic Centre is closed down for the summer months, and other arrangements would have to be adopted.

The Early Members

The first members, other than the Founders, were the youthful Bros. J Hamilton-Jones and EN (Norman) Gudge, who joined from St. Andrews Lodge No.1046, on 3rd. September 1948. They were promptly invested as Stewards on their acceptance into the Lodge. Bro. Gudge went on to play a great part in the Lodge affairs in later years, and indeed also in Freemasonry at large as a Grand Officer.

See the incorporated copy of the summons for the first meeting of the Lodge to be held in Farnham for the details of these early members. Mr. Allen, although duly Initiated at the next Regular Meeting, does not seem to have 'trained on' into the offices of the Lodge. The original was printed on a pre-metric size paper, so the printing was larger and more readable in real life. As can be seen the membership list was not yet that large. Also, morning dress or uniform appeared to be '*de rigueur*' for attendance in those days.

The first Initiation in the fledgling lodge took place at the same meeting, and was for Mr. David Edward Lloyd. Thus the first three non-founding members all went on to occupy the Chair of the Lodge in later years; Bro. Hamilton-Jones in 1956, Bro. Gudge in 1958, and Bro. Lloyd in 1959.

An Aristocrat was Initiated into Castle Lodge in 1951. Whether he was referred to in Lodge as 'The Right Honourable Brother' is not clear, but he duly became a Lord in 1956. He did not progress through the offices. Alas, he was excluded for non-payment of subscriptions in 1958!

A topographic Masonic pattern is discernible in the early fifties. By 1953 seven of the forty-seven members resided in Bridgefield, Farnham. It conjures up all sorts of peculiar visions that are best not visited here, but at least the members could practice their ritual in their gardens without fear of being overheard by a 'Cowan'. Strangely, other Lodges also record a high level of membership in that leafy avenue.

There was an alarm in the Lodge in 1953, when it was discovered that a member also belonged to '*The Loyal Order of The Moose*'. As this was (and still is) defined as Quasi-Masonic, he and Freemasonry had to part company. Doubtless he retained his antlers and stayed loyal to the Head Moose. It is to be hoped that he also successfully roamed the range for many happy years doing his undoubted good and charitable works.

The Banner

The Founders presented the silk Banner of the Lodge that is still in use. Vague memories have it that it was made in the Far East. It is recorded that it only just turned up in time for the Dedication Ceremony that took place at the fifth Regular Meeting on 6th. May, 1949.

Oddly, for something so valuable to the Lodge, little record or knowledge now exists as to its history. Accordingly, the above paragraph is based on one line in a Committee Meeting book, and a vague memory of a present member, but who was far too young to be a member at that time.

We do know however, that once again the PGM, R.W. Bro. HA Mann honoured the Lodge by his presence, and duly carried out the Banner Ceremony from the Chair. At least full documentation exists for that occasion.

A New Home

In 1951 Farnham gained its own Masonic Hall. A move from The Institute was on the cards. The September (Installation) Meeting of that year was held at the Scarborough Rooms, Aldershot. A move to the newly acquired 42, Castle Street, Farnham then took place for the next (Emergency) Meeting. Both St. Andrews and Castle Lodges have claimed to hold the first meeting at the new premises. As a matter of record, Castle Lodge first met there on October 5th. 1951. To the best of our knowledge this was indeed the first Masonic Meeting at the new home. To celebrate the occasion a double Raising and a Passing were performed.

The Farnham Masonic Hall Co., formed from the early Farnham Lodges, obtained the rather dilapidated premises to house the growing local Masonic population. The original was an outbuilding or barn belonging to Farnham Castle, and was built well before the English Civil War. It was used as barracks for the Roundhead troops during the War (1642-1648) and was later obtained by a William Baker who rebuilt it as a 'Musick House'. It boasted a large

musical organ which, it is thought, was moved to the Parish Church in 1800. Thankfully the organ went - it would really have cramped things in the Lodge Room!

The external appearance of the building has changed little for two hundred and fifty years. Internally it has seen many changes and uses. From 1820 to 1860 it was 'The School' until being replaced by a purpose built National School adjacent to St. Andrew's Church in that year. That is now the local Junior School. In 1877 another charitable application was in evidence when the building became 'The Working Men's, or Castle Street Institute'.

The Education Committee continued to use the building for some types of lessons. A local gentlemen's hairdresser, still plying his mystic arts in South Street, recalls the building during his own schooldays. It was in a ramshackle condition, with gaps in the floorboards. A favoured pastime of the boys in the upper floor woodworking class was to enlarge the gaps with their chisels. They then poured sawdust into the cake mixes under formulation by the girls' cookery class on the ground floor. 'It is by the advantages alone that we are rendered fit members of.....'. Oh dear!, but at least he can cut hair - even if he isn't a Mason.

A lot of redecoration has taken place over the years since 1951, a great deal by members of the various local lodges. An organisation of the local lodges going under the ugly acronym of CLAWCO (the letters stood for the names of the lodges and the Ladies Club) supported the Hall in its early day as a home to Freemasonry. CLAWCO must be given a lot of the credit for the present good condition of the Hall. The organisation ran various social occasions such as dances, and on one evening a Race Night. This unfortunately appears to have been a disaster. No reasons are recorded in our Lodge books, but once again our imaginations can run riot with perhaps less than complimentary results regarding the conduct at (or of?) the event.

Following the minor fire at the Hall (see below in 'The Latter Years') and general subsidence, the building began to skew outwards and collapse in 1991. An expensive restoration, luckily largely covered by insurance, was undertaken. Again Fortune smiled, and most of the work was carried out during the summer 'closed season'. W.Bro. Bob White, a notable member of Castle Lodge, was the overseer of the remedial work on behalf of the Farnham Masonic Hall Company. Another Castle member - W.Bro. Norman Gudge - also chaired the Company. This was probably as well, as it could be alleged that Castle Lodge was responsible for the fire in the first place.

The Middle Years

The affairs and membership of the Lodge seemed to go from strength to strength during the latter fifties and through the sixties. There was a regular supply of Candidates and Joining Members, with fortunately few resignations or deaths.

A couple of nice touches occurred in the fifties. In 1956 the Primus Master Installed his son, Bro. JE Hamilton-Jones into the Chair. Two years later another of the Founders, W.Bro. Ernie Gudge, Installed his son Norman, following his own occupation of the Chair in 1957.

A Change of Meeting Date

The first Regular (Installation) Meeting of the 'season' used to be held on the first Friday of September when many members were on holiday. It is also rumoured that as the Farnborough Airshow was held in the first week of September further problems arose. The Airshow plainly caused a squeeze on local accommodation, and doubtless a few members were involved in some way. To overcome the 'clash', the September meeting was moved in 1956 from the first to the fourth Friday of September. A current advantage is that the first ceremony of the season is now held after a couple of rehearsals at the Lodge of Instruction (LOI). There can be no excuse for a bad ceremony at the September meeting - in the unlikely event that it would ever occur!

Festive Board

The lodge was a dining lodge until May 1964. That is, the price of the Festive Board was included in the annual fees. Things may well have been easier for the Treasurer to balance the dining account in those days. But, surely the tradition of the late advising by members of their dining intentions was born then. Unfortunately, to the chagrin of the Dining Secretary, it continues to thrive unabated even now - despite pleas and threats from the Secretary!

For many years the Festive Board was generally held at the Bush Hotel. This establishment is within fifty metres of The Institute, where the first meetings were held, and a reasonable walking distance from the Masonic Hall for the later years.

This arrangement had problems. There is a letter on file from the Manager of the Hotel complaining of late attendance by the Brethren for dinner. This meant he had to pay his staff overtime, which plainly upset him. In the same letter he also mentions that furniture at the hotel was regularly broken during the evening. This letter may be related to the anecdotes of our former stewards. They recount of having to extract some brethren out of the various bars they chose to visit on their short walk to the Bush Hotel. Evidently, a few members had a habit of taking liquid refreshment a trifle prematurely before the Festive Board. By the time the Stewards had located the bars, and rounded the Brethren up, it is not surprising that they were late and a bit boisterous!

The Licensing Laws of those days were a trifle oppressive, insofar that an alcoholic drink had to be taken when the (restricted) opportunity arose. A ruse was adopted of nominally booking a dozen or so of the brethren into a single room at the Bush Hotel. This did not hint of moral turpitude. It apparently allowed the Residents Drinking Licence to be invoked to the satisfaction of the legal authorities and so it seems, even more so to that of the Brethren. Thus liquid refreshment could be taken with dinner to the contentment of all concerned. Fortunately, Drink-Driving Laws were less challenging in those days.

The arrangement continued more or less until dining facilities became available at the Masonic Hall in 1980. Occasional forays were made to the 'Queen of Hearts' in West Street, and on one instance to the Church House in South Street.

A commercial company, Clarks of Farnborough, provided the catering requirements by bringing food into the Festive Board for a couple of years. However, in 1982 the Hall kitchen became available for its proper use and a Masonic Catering Club was set up under the auspices of the Farnham Masonic Hall Co. Ltd..

The first Catering Manager was W.Bro. SCR (Nick) Carter. Although not a member of Castle Lodge, he was a good friend to the Lodge, and indeed to all Farnham Masons and lodges in general. Nick accompanied Castle Lodge on some annual visits to Absit Invidia Lodge, Portsmouth (see 'Mutual Visiting' below). The meals at the Christmas meeting in Portsmouth were legendary, consisting of several helpings of roast salt beef, pease and Yorkshire puddings, Christmas and mince pies, cheese, et al.

One year while we were virtually crawling out of the Absit Invidia Festive Board, Nick was heard to growl "I'll get my own back on those b-gg-rs". He did! On their return visit to Farnham, Nick presented them with a belt buckle-bursting menu of soup, fish, steak & kidney pie, spotted dick with custard followed by cheese and biscuits. It was Pompey's turn to crawl out of our Festive Board.

W.Bro. Carter was followed in the office by W.Bro. Dennis Seignot, and in turn, by W.Bro. Tony Smith. The latter two have kept up the high quality of meals for which the Centre is justly noted.

For many years Castle Lodge was vocally entertained at the May meeting Festive Board by the Farnham Ladies Choir. This was very pleasant for the Lodge, as the choir were most attractive and talented. So much so, that they became famous in their own singing world and, unfortunately for us, went on to perform to even more musically appreciative audiences than the members of Castle Lodge.

The Latter Years

The seventies, eighties and nineties continued in a more or less satisfactory manner with a continuous stream of candidates. Unhappily the passing of the years was naturally reflected by a number of the original members being summoned to His immediate presence. A fact of life with which we all have to die. However, the membership continued numerically in the fifty to sixty range. It was not uncommon in early eighties for up to ninety brethren to dine after a regular meeting, visiting being very popular in those days. The present Hall limit for dining is now seventy-four, so it is probably fortunate that only about forty to fifty dine nowadays.

A minor hiccup occurred in 1982 when the then Secretary resigned from Freemasonry in mid-Masonic year for personal reasons. This plainly negated his qualifications to continue - even as a member of the Lodge. The reigning Master, W.Bro. Bob White seamlessly took over the duties for the rest of his year in office.

The 215th. Regular Meeting of 3rd. May 1991 went (or nearly did, we didn't actually open!), with more excitement than usual. Scheduled to open at 17.00hrs, the Brethren were assembling beforehand when the Hall lights failed. A brother, well skilled in building equipment services maintenance, reset the electrical trip. In hindsight this may have been a mistake! A few minutes later smoke manifested itself in the porchway or entrance to the Hall with a further lighting failure.

Plainly an electrical fire had broken out in the ceiling of the lobby and the Fire Service was alerted. Two Aldershot Fire Appliances (manned by several members of Aldershot Camp Lodge No.1331) were very quickly on the scene accompanied by a Police Car and an

Ambulance. To the evacuated Brethren, now adding to the normal five o'clock Castle Street traffic congestion, the Fire Service personnel certainly seemed to enjoy their work. They attacked the ceiling with gusto and working tools more appropriate to Mark and Royal Ark Masonry. The result was that there was little ceiling left to burn. Fortunately the fire was confined to the lower entrance. All Lodge property and valuables (such as raffle prizes) were rescued by the light of three candles without further incident. The ritual term 'glimmering ray' took on a new Masonic significance.

Plainly the meeting had to be abandoned, much to the surprise of many partners (originally I put 'wives', but you have to be Politically Correct in the 1990's!), when Brethren returned home unexpectedly early. One Brother was greeted with 'no wonder you burned the place down with all that devil worship' - we were less open about ourselves even as recently as 1991! No divorces were reported as a result of the premature homecoming, but a few lawns were given a surprise trim that evening. Official Visiting Brethren from Absit Invidia had a very early return to Portsmouth, departing with a cheery cry of 'see you at Christmas' as they set off in their still warm mini-bus. Jokes rumbled around the town for weeks from other lodges that 'Castle really had a hot time the other night then?' We just grinned resignedly, and carried on our way.

The Book of Constitutions was consulted, and the meeting just scraped in to count as a meeting according to the Rules.

Charity

Like most Lodges, Castle can justly be proud of its charitable work. It became a Patron of The Royal Masonic Hospital 1964, has supported Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI) Festivals and other local good causes down the years.

For the recently completed 1997 RMBI Festival, the Lodge contributed over forty-one thousand pounds out of the seven and half million total. In the (non-existent) league list, Castle Lodge was eleventh equal in the list of Surrey Lodges contributions. This followed up a similar effort in the 1983 Festival.

Likewise Castle Lodge has been a regular supporter of the Surrey Masonic Halls Fund, with a consistent annual donation of one hundred and twenty-five pounds or so.

The Province of Surrey Masonic Sports Association

Castle Lodge became a supporter of the Masonic Sports Association in 1953, with greater or less participation in its events ever since. Alas, we have not yet seen the need to purchase a trophy cabinet to mark any major sporting successes, although one member was quite successful in the Golf Section a couple of years ago.

The Volume of the Sacred Law (VSL)

Since its inception the Lodge had used a VSL presented by the Founding Secretary. In 1980, the Senior Warden of the year, Bro. Alan Fordham, presented the Lodge with a new VSL on his celebration of thirty years as a Freemason. Therein are recorded the names of the Founders and WM's of the Lodge since its formation. Not a lot of people know that. Certainly the current Secretary didn't, and found out only accidentally after a couple of years in office. Long may it continue to be used,

Lodge Furniture and Fittings

Over the years various WM's have been pleased to present the Lodge with items of furniture and regalia as a token of gratitude for occupying the Chair of the Lodge.

It would not be fair to list the donors, as suitable items were identified as the need arose at the time, but the Lodge is now fairly well equipped for most eventualities or occasions.

Lodge of Instruction (LOI)

As long ago as July 9th 1948 it was decided to start a Lodge of Rehearsal, with W.Bro. A.P. Gibbons as its first Preceptor.

A name change has occurred from Lodge of Rehearsal to Lodge of Instruction (the former is probably more appropriate, rehearsals rather than instruction being held). It has continued to meet on Friday evenings during the winter months ever since.

In the early years the LOI was self-supporting and ran by itself under the paternal eye of the main Lodge. Not until 1964 did Castle Lodge take over the responsibility of paying the rent for the rehearsal room for its supporting offspring.

For many years the LOI ran a Stewards Festival. Unfortunately, a lack of active attendees at the LOI since the mid-eighties has precluded its continuation. The Festival was held as normally as possible as a Regular Meeting, with the LOI members carrying out all the offices. Dress was as for a normal meeting, and a full Festive Board held afterwards.

Mutual Visiting

Absit Invidia Lodge No. 6751, Portsmouth

- a mutual visiting arrangement started in 1958. The lodges were formed within a year of each other and the name of the Portsmouth Lodge plainly has a nice link with Castle Lodge's motto.

In 1958 the WM and Brethren of Absit Invidia were pleased to present a silver candle snuffer to Castle Lodge. This is normally in place beside the Senior Deacon's seat, and is used at every meeting. They followed this up in 1967 with the presentation of a miniature ship's bell. The bell is used at every Festive Board for the 9.00 o'clock Toast. It should be recorded that

they received an ornate Square and Compasses from us in return in that year. They have also donated various other well-appreciated gifts over the years.

Rowner Lodge No.6974, Gosport

- mutual visiting commenced with this Lodge in 1969. Unfortunately, as time has moved on and the older brethren have moved away, there has latterly been less interest, and the arrangement was quietly dropped in 1996. A proviso was agreed between the mutual Secretaries that, should it ever be requested, the visiting would be quickly resurrected.

Castle Keep No. 6446, Guildford

- this arrangement is comparatively recent, and was started after a visit to PGL in 1986. On returning, the Guildford Masonic Centre was used for mutual dining, and in fraternal conversation the arrangement was confirmed. Castle Keep now meet in Godalming, and we still visit every year.